

Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of October 6, 2014

Quick Links

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Schools Not Ready for Online Testing Can Seek Waiver (Detroit Free Press 10/8/14)

School administrators will have to act quickly if they know their buildings won't be ready for the new wave of testing in Michigan.

State standardized exams next spring will be given online for the first time in Michigan. And the goal of the Michigan Department of Education is to move as many schools as possible to online testing.

But some schools aren't technologically ready. That's why MDE is requiring they file a request for a waiver that will allow them to use paper and pencil exams.

The deadline for applying is Nov. 7. Testing begins in April.

To read the article click: <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2014/10/08/schools-waiver-online-testing/16883081/>

Online testing device requirements can be found at http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_Device_Requirements9-15-14.pdf.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test for iPads and Chromebooks: Technical Information

The Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field test window for iPads and Chromebooks is October 20, 2014 to November 11, 2014. Software necessary for the installation of DRC's test engine, INSIGHT, will be released on October 18, 2014. Technical guides, checklists, and administration manuals will be available for review on October 13, 2014 at <https://mi.drcedirect.com/>.

In preparation for using Chromebooks, please make sure you have set up Google Apps for Education and have enrolled all of your Chromebooks in the Device Manager. This will allow you to manage your devices including configuration and the INSIGHT testing software.

If you have not already done so, visit Google to manage your Chrome devices: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/1289314?rd=2>.

Reminders

Recently Asked Questions

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.

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If you require support with setting up your Google Administrator account or enrolling Chromebooks, please contact Google, directly.

Note: Chrome device management is automatically available for Chrome devices purchased directly from Google or an authorized reseller. To manage Chrome devices from third parties, purchase Chrome device management separately from a *Chrome Devices for Business and Education* sales representative.

Information for Fall 2014 KEA Participants:

- **KEA Assessment Window:** The KEA assessment window will close October 31, 2014. The last day to Pre-ID and create sessions for students in the MDE Secure Site will be Monday, October 13, 2014. Please respond to baa@michigan.gov with any questions or concerns.
- **Webinar Invitation:** A webinar "Completing the First Checkpoint for Michigan's KEA" will be presented October 16, 2014 at 4:00 pm. The event will also be recorded and placed on the TS GOLD, teacher home page for those who cannot attend at https://www2.teachingstrategies.com/page/CC_StateMI.cfm

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/598419624>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees: Required: Windows® 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Mac®-based attendees: Required: Mac OS® X 10.6 or newer

Mobile attendees: Required: iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet

- **Parent Reporting -Arabic:** The English version of the Objectives for Development and Learning (ODL) is available for use during family

conferencing. The ODL has been translated into a parallel Arabic version. KEA teachers can refer to the ODL in English and have parents follow along in Arabic. Both documents are available on the teacher home page.

- **Need assistance or support:** Email addresses, telephone contact information, and requests for on-site support for KEA Trainer/Coaches can be sent to baa@michigan.gov.

Spring 2015 MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence Assessments

MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence (P/SI) assessments will be administered using selected response with picture cards and activity-based observation formats.

How the test is administered to students for these two assessments is not changing. There is not an online option for administering these assessments, so a waiver is not required. However, there will be an online answer document for all districts.

When a district identifies students as taking MI-Access P/SI assessments, they will receive the hard copy materials necessary to administer the assessment. All districts will need to enter their responses using an online answer document (rather than a scannable answer document). This will allow for fewer entry errors and faster initial reporting.

Spring 2015 MI-Access Functional Independence Social Studies

This is the first year, MI-Access Functional Independence Social Studies will be a required operational assessment. Social Studies at the Supported Independence and Participation levels will continue to be assessed using a locally determined assessment.

WIDA Scores in MDE Secure Site for Transfer Students

Transfer students' past Michigan W-APT, WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test scores are now available in the MDE Secure Site. This should aid districts in more efficient and accurate identification of English learners (ELs) in the event that a student's permanent records are delayed in being sent to a student's new district.

New Study for Developing Accessible Tests looking for Participants

On behalf of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas, the Office of Standards & Assessments (OSA) invites schools and those students who may qualify, to participate in a study for developing accessible tests for students with vision or motor disabilities based on innovative, technology-enhanced computerized assessments.

Field-testing of these new types of test questions and tasks will take place October 20, 2014 – November 21, 2014.

Key information about this project:

- We are seeking students with vision or motor disabilities in grades 3 through 12 who take the general assessments.
- Parents must give permission for their child(ren) to participate (please contact OSA for a parent letter template at paulj@michigan.gov).
- These field tests DO NOT take the place of any required testing that students must participate in.

- Computerized tests will offer audio presentation, screen magnification, and compatibility with switch systems.
- Students may use print or braille copies of the assessment along with any tools they usually use for instruction and assessment.
- Tests are offered at each grade 3 through 8 and 11.
- Testing will take about one hour.
- These tests use secure test items and tasks that cannot be copied or downloaded.
- Scores will NOT be shared with teachers, students, parents, or school personnel.
- Teachers will be asked to complete a questionnaire about each student, including vision and motor abilities.

To **sign up**, please complete the **Teacher Registration survey** by **October 10, 2014**. You will receive a **\$50 Walmart gift card** for your help. Accessibility for Technology-Enhanced Assessments (ATEA) Investigators may ask for your social security number in order to comply with federal and state tax and accounting regulations in order to receive the gift card. More information about the project can be found at <http://ateassessments.org>.

You may contact Julia Shaftel, jshaftel@ku.edu at (785) 864-0733 or any of the Michigan Department of Education personnel working on this project: Jennifer Paul, PaulJ@michigan.gov, (517) 335-3967, Office of Standards and Assessment, Johanna Anand, AnandJ@michigan.gov, (517)373-2887, Low Incidence Outreach, or Joanne Winkelman, winkelmanj@michigan.gov, (517) 335-0457, Office of Special Education if you have questions.

Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

College Entrance and Work Skills

- ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys will be part of Michigan's 11th grade assessment
- The ACT College Entrance and Work Skill Establishment process ends October 17, 2014. For questions regarding establishing contact ACT at 1.800.553.6244, ext. 2800.

Paper-Pencil Administration of Student Assessments Request

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and schools around the state have been preparing to transition to online state assessments. Starting in spring 2015, all statewide general assessments as well as the MI-Access Functional Independence assessments will be administered online.

A paper-pencil version of the assessments will be available for schools that are not yet ready to make the transition to online assessments. The Michigan Summative Assessment Request for Paper-Pencil Administration document has guidance on how to submit online waiver request(s) for the administration of the assessments via paper-pencil at your school.

An informational memo and the Michigan Summative Assessment Request for Paper-Pencil Administration Process and Procedures document can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

Things to note:

- For information on technology readiness visit: <http://22itr.org/>
- Online testing device requirements can be found at http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_Device_Requirements9-15-14.pdf.
- Schools that are administering online, but have individual students who need to use a Paper-

Pencil form due to a disability or other reason, do not need to follow the Request for Paper-Pencil Administration process. The individual student requests will be handled through a materials ordering process as has been done in the past with other accommodations.

- Schools will need to submit the online waiver request(s) by November 7, 2014 in order to obtain the paper-pencil materials needed.
- A request for general assessments or Functional Independence (FI) assessments must be submitted separately.
- **The waiver request can only be submitted by a district administrator level user of the Secure Site.**

A [quick reference guide](#) for submitting online waivers can be found on the MDE website at www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining under the Quick References section.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Registration Now Open—iPad and Chromebook Testing Window

Registration is now open for iPads and Chromebooks at <https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/fall14-interim-ipadchromebook-field-test/>. This testing window runs from October 20 – November 14, 2014. Schools who register for this field test will be eligible to receive the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) participation incentive of \$3.00 for each student test completed. **Each content or subject area test consists of two parts, and both parts of the test must be completed to be eligible for the participation incentive.** For example, a student who completes both parts of each assessment in ELA and Mathematics will earn the school district a participation incentive of \$6.00.

Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

Schools that have participated in the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test (Windows or Mac desktops and laptops only) may also participate in the iPad and Chromebook field test; however, these schools are still required to complete the iPad and Chromebook registration survey.

Note: Students may not take the same assessment more than once. For example, if a student took the ELA assessment during the desktop and laptop field test window, that same student may not take the ELA assessment during the iPad and Chromebook field test window.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Testing—Desktop and Laptop Window

The Fall 2014 Interim Assessment testing window for desktops and laptops (Windows or MAC) is open through October 17, 2014. Your school district is still eligible to receive the TRIG incentive funds of \$3.00 per test completed. **Each content or subject area test consists of two parts, and both parts of the test must be completed to be eligible for the participation incentive.** For example, a student who completes both parts of each assessment in ELA and Mathematics will earn the school district a participation incentive of \$6.00.

Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)

The Kindergarten Entry Assessment is well underway. If your school or district is participating please remember the following:

- The KEA test window closes October 31, 2014.
- The Inter-rater Reliability (IRR) module (3 SCECHS) must be completed before entering data into the TS Gold System. Professional Development modules (12 SCECHS) can be completed later.

- If you are a district or building coordinator, please check with KEA Test Administrators to ensure they are able to complete their IRR as soon as possible.
- All students must be Pre-ID'd on the MDE Secure Site and then placed in a session Site by the approved BAA Secure Site user. Directions for both steps can be found at: www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining.

WIDA Professional Development Workshops and Trainings

December 4, 5, 9, and 10

8:30 – 3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

Data Analysis: Focus on the Classroom

December 4 (repeat session December 5)

This one-day workshop will focus on utilizing WIDA assessment data to improve classroom instruction. It is strongly recommended that grade level, school, or district teams attend this workshop. An ideal team would include general education teachers from across the content areas of mathematics, science, social studies, English language arts, as well as English as a second language educators. Teams with this makeup will aid schools in addressing academic language across all of WIDA's English Language Development standards. To register for this event, please send the following information to Cristina Rodriguez, rodriguezc@michigan.gov:

- Team members' names
- Grade(s) currently teaching
- Content area(s) currently teaching

Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

Administering the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs

December 9

This workshop will give new WIDA test administrators an opportunity to learn about how to administer the summative ACCESS for ELLs. To register for this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

Administering the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

December 10

This workshop will give new WIDA test administrators an opportunity to learn about how to administer the summative Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. This assessment is designed to assess your **English learners (ELs) who are also students with disabilities**.

If you do not expect to administer this assessment to any students in your school you do not need to attend this workshop.

To register for this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

Secure Site Training Materials

There is now a website (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) for Secure Site training materials that include both documents and Camtasia videos. We will be adding more information to this web page as we develop it.

Michigan Standards

Information on Michigan standards for all content areas are located on the Michigan Department of Education website at <http://www.michigan.gov/academicstandards>.

Recently Asked Questions

Will keyboarding be required for the 3rd grade English language arts assessment (ELA)?

While keyboarding will be part of ELA assessments for all grades 3 and up, we are aware of the concerns around our younger students and keyboarding. With the technology of online assessment there are additional ways to measure writing skills using technology-enhanced items that can reduce the keyboarding burden for our younger students.

Will there be a writing assessment in Spring 2015?

Michigan is moving to an English language arts (ELA) assessment that measures our current standards. This assessment will include reading and writing at all grades (3-8 and 11). Writing. The ELA item types will include a variety of item types including multiple-choice items, constructed-response items of varying lengths, and technology-enhanced items.

I thought we were using Dynamic Learning Maps this year. If we are using MI-Access, what standards is the assessment based upon?

MI-Access measures Michigan's current alternate content standards (Extended Grade Level Content Expectations, Extended High School Content Expectations and Extended Benchmarks). A copy of the memo regarding the delay in using DLM can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/DLM_Delay_470230_7.pdf

Will there be a K-2 Pilot in the spring?

The K-2 assessment is currently part of the interim assessment system and will not be required. We will not be piloting any interim assessments this spring.

Who received the information about the paper/pencil waiver request?

The memorandum regarding the waiver request was sent to District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, School Principals, and all DAS list serves. The informational memo and the Michigan Summative Assessment Request for Paper-Pencil Administration Process and Procedures document can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

Is the state able to handle the entire state testing around the same time?

Yes, Michigan has taken appropriate measures to assure a successful administration.

Prior Recently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recently_Asked_Questions_470957_7.pdf.